Education Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE:

Members: Laura Dunbar, Abby Thomas, Carol VanDerKarr, Chris Widdall, Eric Edlund, Lindsey Darvin, Jeffrey Walkuski, Margaret Gichuru, Alyson Dearie, Christina Price (sitting in for Tom Hanford)

Members Absent: Thomas Hanford, Maaike Oldemans

Guests:Nancy Diller

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| **Topic** | **Comments/Discussion** | **Action** |
| **Approval of Minutes** | Minutes reviewed. No discussion.  Motion to accept prior minutes: none opposed. | **Prior minutes accepted.** |
|  | Introductions, Chris welcomed Alyson Dearie to the committee. |  |
| **Old Business** | **Minor-Concentration credit overlap**  Continuation of discussion from last spring that would modify the handbook to allow students to receive a minor in a subject for which there is strong overlap with a major concentration. The goal is to get away from inconsistent decisions based on recommendations of chairs or deans where the rules may not be applied uniformly. The issue should not be left to a case-by-case basis. Some departments want students to be able to get a minor along with a concentration (example given of a concentration in Sport Management and a minor in Economics).  Review of edits from last spring: it was decided that the later aspects of the edits, focusing on the matter of whether students can/should be able to receive credit for a lower class based on transfer credit or exam scores when they have already taken a higher level class, should be separated and dealt with at a later date. This can come up when students need additional credit hours to graduate and could, in principle, transfer in additional credits for lower classes. We will need to check back in with Carol Corbin to get further input on this matter.  Additional discussion of whether departments should have a say in whether to grant a minor or not. The current language in the modified statements do not indicate that departments can allow or deny a minor. Proposal to add a statement that explicitly indicates that students must consult with the catalog to see whether departments have restrictions on double-counting credit for minors. It was argued that this statement should be explicit so that it is clear to the students and clear that departments retain this right. Additional wordsmithing on the proposed statement is needed.  Need a justification statement to present these changes to the Faculty Sentate. | **Remove from the proposal to be sent to FS the matters pertaining to credit for lower courses.**  **Motion by Eric Edlund to add a statement along the lines of the text below as an alternate version of the proposed changes. Seconded by Jeff Walkuski.**  **Vote: passed**  **Proposed statement: “There may department limitations on addition of a minor based on major or concentration. Please check the catalog for specific restrictions.”**  **Carol and Chris will create a justification statement.** |
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| **New Business** | **SGA proposal to modify the academic misconduct procedures**  The SGA submitted a request for changes to the handbook policies governing the use of the Academic Grievance Tribunal (AGT). Their proposal contains significant changes, especially toward the end. They want to reduce the amount of time that faculty have to submit evidence and responses from 5 days to 2 days, seemingly to be equal to the time allowed to students. They also want to remove the department from the process and have students go straight to the deans. There was concern that shortening the time allowed to faculty could be a huge imposition on the system since faculty sometimes need time to do research.  Seems appropriate to seek input from different parties to explain the consequences of such proposed changes. It was decided that we should invite the following parties:   * Eunice Miller (October 9) * Representative of the AGT (October 9) * Representative of the SGA, possibly Alexis Blavos (October 23) | **Carol will contact Eunice and the AGT to try to schedule a visit at the next EPC meeting.** |
|  | **Discussion of the main topic for the next EPC meeting:**  Discuss which GPA calculations departments are using for graduation. |  |
|  | **Changing the EPC meeting time:**  Not all members can meet at the 10 AM meeting time. | **Chris will send out a poll inquiring about alternate times for meetings after consulting with Tom and Carol.** |
|  | **Recordings of EPC meetings:**  Given that it is currently not possible for all members to attend the EPC meeting due to conflicts with teaching assignments,  current and possibly future meetings will be recorded and the recording files placed in a folder on the EPC shared drive with password protection. These videos will be deleted after the absentee members have viewed the recordings. | **Carol will create the folder and manage the storing and deleting of the video recordings.** |
| **Adjourned** | 11:00 AM |  |
|  | Respectfully submitted by Eric Edlund  October 28, 2020 |  |